Command & Conquer: Red Alert 3 is now in stores. Is it worth the money? Read our review
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The Curious Case of Benjamin Button hit theaters over the holiday. See how it did
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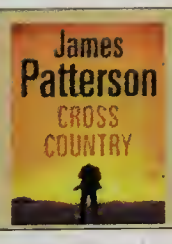

Looking for something to read in your spare time? Maybe check out James Patterson's latest novel
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Did the Utah Utes get cheated out of winning the BCS championship?
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THE CHRONICLE

Week of January 12, 2009 · Purdue University Calumet · http://www.pucchronicle.com

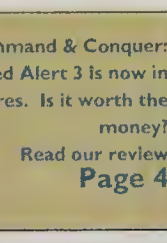
SGA still restructuring, but making progress

Steven VanderVelde
Managing Editor

The SGA has been on hiatus since Spring 2008 and will remain inactive until at least Fall 2009. Low student participation and a lack of qualified candidates for office forced the SGA to cancel their elections in the Spring 2008 semester.

Ober

During Spring 2008, a student restructuring committee was appointed to come up with a new model of SGA that would better function on a campus like PUC. Interim President David Ober and Interim Vice President Raquel Perez were appointed to lead the SGA during its restructuring process.


Perez

"At this point we are still making sure that our constitution is sound," said Perez. "We hope to soon release it to the student body to review and add their stamp of approval. We will then start recruiting for students that are interested in being a part of the new model for the next school year."

"We are trying to set a precedence for what future SGA incarnations will do," said Ober. "We are also trying to make it so that the new model can enlarge itself if there is ever a need. We're being real careful to think of everything and do our best. We also hope to hold elections for Fall 2009."

The main concern for the two reformers is the constitution.

"The previous [constitution] was not a sufficient guideline to operate on, so we threw it out and started over," said Ober. "We looked at the constitutions of peer universities, took bits and pieces and moved things around so that it fit our population here."

Both Ober and Perez cite PUC's status as a community campus as the cause for the low rate of student participation. This made it difficult for the SGA to be successful in the past. They said they moved towards solving this problem by sizing down the body of SGA.

"We have cut back a little bit on how many people we need in the student government," said Perez. "Here at PUC, many of our students are full time workers as well as parents and have other obligations, and while our school is important, not everyone has the time or is willing to participate. We have adjusted the constitution so that we can run efficiently with less people and grow over time."

Ober also said student involvement in the SGA is very important if student concerns are going to be addressed.

"It will be the role of the SGA leadership to formulate an opinion based on the student voice and submit that opinion to the administration to aid them in their decisions," said Ober. "PUC students should expect the SGA to work with the administration to make decisions that are beneficial to everyone."

Campus wide smoking ban is a possibility at PUC

Chronicle Illustration be Nathyn D. Gibson

Many PUC students and faculty who do not smoke are hopeful that someday smoking might be stomped out completely on campus to avoid having to walk through clouds of cigarette smoke when walking into a PUC building.

Andrea Drac
Staff Writer

Three senior nursing students created and conducted a survey during the fall semester to assess the possibility of a campus-wide ban. The survey was designed to indicate the support or lack thereof for smoking cessation on campus.

Administration took measures in the past to eliminate some of the smoking activity, for example, allowing people to only smoke in designated areas outside. But this rule is scarcely enforced and nonsmokers have complained.

"Having to walk through a large group of students smoking near entrances is unhealthy in addition to simply being an annoyance to all nonsmokers," Linda McMillan, an academic advisor, said.

"PUC has tried to eliminate smoking in the past," Maureen Panares, the director of the Student Health Services Center said. "But enforcement is really dependent on all of the campus community to step up and insist on a smoke free workplace."

Being a nurse herself, Panares wants the ban to go into effect due mostly to the dangers of second-hand smoke.

"The evidence was strong in those preliminary studies which were not only conducted with sound methodology, but were repeatable and have been substantiated," Panares said. "Far beyond the personal cost and emotional loss smoking continues to reap on our society, as a business PUC cannot continue to ignore the financial loss of years of work lost and medical expenses for respiratory illnesses and cancer."

"Having to walk through a large group of students smoking near entrances is unhealthy in addition to simply being an annoyance to all nonsmokers,"
Linda McMillan
Academic Advisor

McMillan, who has visited smoke free campuses, such as Notre Dame, said a smoking ban at PUC is in the best interest of faculty and students alike.

"I believe that Purdue Calumet should follow the example of other universities and, in fact, be a progressive leader in this matter," she said.

Michael Schmidt, a junior majoring in biology, is a smoker at PUC and is against the ban.

"I suppose it would be a good thing for me because I'm trying to quit, but this is bad news for other smokers," Schmidt said. "Smoking outside is a right and it doesn't bother anyone if the rules are followed. I just don't think the idea is fair at all."

As of now, there is no further movement on this possible campus smoking ban.

"Our first step was the survey and, with the help of additional senior nursing students in the spring, we will decide on what our next step may be towards the ultimate goal of banning smoking on our campus," Panares said.

On Aug. 20, 2007, Indiana University Northwest officially became a smoke free campus

"Under the new policy, the use or sale of tobacco products - cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff - is prohibited on university-owned, operated or leased property or vehicles at any time. Smoking in personal vehicles, however, is allowed."
- IUN.edu

ADMINISTRATIVE update

Campus is going greener!

Expanded recycling program begins Jan. 18

RecycleMania, a more expansive, campus-wide recycling initiative, begins next week. In addition to paper, we will begin recycling such items as glass, plastics, metals and cardboard. Following is a Q&A overview of **RecycleMania**.

Q: Generally speaking, what is the intent of RecycleMania?

A: It is a program designed to help our campus minimize solid waste and promote recycling.

Q: Refresh my memory as to why doing that is important.

A: Recycling helps extend the life of existing landfill sites and reduces the need to create new landfills…The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will light a 100-watt bulb for four hours…The energy saved from one recycled aluminum can operate a television set for three hours… It takes 95 percent less energy to make aluminum from scrap than from virgin materials…Because glass takes so long to decompose, the bottle you throw away today might still be littering the landscape in the year 3000… Making new paper from recycled paper uses 30-35 percent less energy than making paper from trees, and it reduces air pollution by 95 percent…

Q: OK, I get the point, but how is this new program different from what our campus previously has been doing recycling-wise?

A: Previously, our campus recycling efforts have been limited to paper. and cardboard.

Q: What materials will be recyclable beginning next week?

A: Food containers, such as aluminum, steel and tin cans; glass jars; soda, juice and pop bottles/containers; ketchup bottles; and narrow-neck plastic bottles, as well as a lengthy list of paper products: business envelopes; business forms; cardboard (flattened); cereal, detergent and shoe boxes; computer, copy, fax and typing paper; file folders; junk mail; ledger/scratch paper; *magazines; manila envelopes; newspaper; sticky notes; and telephone books.*

Q: What items are not acceptable for recycling?

A: Auto mirrors; tinted glass; blueprints; overhead transparencies; carbon paper; carpeting; clothing; hazardous waste or related containers; crystal-type materials or beverage glasses; foil-type containers; facial tissues; disposable diapers; light bulbs; metal or steel objects such as nails, wire hangers or case strapping; pizza boxes; rubber type materials/latex; paper towels/napkins; self-adhesive tape; photo paper; Styrofoam products; plastic materials such as food trays, wrap and film cups; toys; Pyrex and other heat-resistant ovenware; and wax-coated products.

Q: Why the "RecycleMania" title?

A: **RecycleMania** is a national initiative supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program, the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) and its College and University Recycling Council. It is intended to be a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities.

Q: So how will "RecycleMania" work on our campus?

A: To accommodate increased recycling campus-wide, each floor of each campus building is being provided a large, green tote container labeled with the traditional recycling logo. When filled, each blue recycling bin in each office and lab will be emptied into the nearest tote container. Students can deposit recyclables directly into the green tote containers and/or blue recycling bins. Our Facilities Services unit will monitor the tote containers and arrange for recycling and solid trash pick-up. Poundage data of recycling and solid trash collected will be recorded, compared and announced regularly. Longer term plans call for us to report and compare our recycling and trash pick-up data with that of other colleges and universities within our **RecycleMania** Benchmark Division.

Q: So who can participate in RecycleMania at Purdue Calumet?

A: Hopefully, all students, faculty, staff and campus guests will participate.

Q: What if I have more questions later about RecycleMania?

A: Contact Facilities Services in the Universities Services Building (USB) or phone ext. 2888, option 3.

What's Going On?

A Look Around...

A Legacy of Building Peace

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 12 in the east concourse of the SUL building. There will be formal remarks and a discussion in honor of the upcoming Martin Luther King Holiday and the election of Barack Obama. It will all take place to unveil the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Exhibit which will be on display through the week.

Sponsored by the Multicultural Campus Council.

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

A convocation in honor of Dr. King will be held in Alumni Hall on Jan. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The convocation will consist of a musical drama and some dance performances by The Joel Hall Dancers and the Banneker Dance Troupe. Also, a recitation of King's "I Have a Dream" speech by PUC's Voices of Hope.

Sponsored by the Multicultural Campus Council.

Visclosky at PUC

Congressman Pete Visclosky will be on campus on Friday, Jan. 16 at 12 p.m. in SUL 150. He will take part in a town hall forum meeting open to the public.

Movie and Popcorn

Student Activities will be showing "The Dark Knight" throughout the day on Jan. 14 and will provide free popcorn. Approximate show times are at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The movie will be shown in the TV room in Calumet Falls.

Lunchtime Karaoke

Come sing your heart out before or after class! Open Karaoke will be in the Calumet Falls Lounge from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Sponsored by Student Activities.

Chinese New Year Party

A party celebrating the Chinese New Year will be held in Alumni Hall on Jan. 31 from 1 to 10 p.m. For more information, contact Ziang Zhang at zhangz@calumet.purdue.edu

Sponsored by the Chinese Students Association.

New International Film Series

A new International Film Series focusing on animation will begin in February. All films will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in CLO 110 on Wednesdays and YJean Chambers Hall on Thursday. Films are always shown in their original languages with English subtitles.

The first film will be shown Wednesday, Feb. 4. The movie is "Persepolis," which focuses a child's perspective on life in Iran during and after the Islamic Revolution.

Vanity Modeling Troupe Fashion Show

A fashion show will be shown by the Vanity Modeling Troupe in Alumni Hall located on the third floor of the SUL building. The event takes place Feb. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Tickets cost $7 in advance and $10 at the door.

For more information, contact Angel Pearson at apearson@calumet.purdue.edu

Mr. and Mrs. Purdue

A male and female participant will be judged by a panel to be crowned Mr. and Mrs. Purdue based on talent, public speaking and modeling. The event takes place Feb. 5 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. All are welcome.

Sponsored by the Black Student Union.

For more information, contact Tinisha Greenwell at tgreenwe@calumet.purdue.edu

Submitting Briefs

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at chronicle@calumet.purdue.edu or campus cc: mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

THE CHRONICLE

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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Shut up in the labs

Steven Vander Velde
Managing Editor

Idiot talk in the computer lab. Nothing makes the keyboards at the computers look more like a blunt weapon than some loud and obnoxious talkers sitting directly behind you while you're trying to work. After almost four years of sitting through it, I think I've had enough.

Last semester I had the displeasure of sitting through a particularly annoying episode of what I like to call "idiot talk." I was just sitting at a computer, minding my own business, trying to take an online quiz for class; when two "students" in the row behind me began talking at full volume about absolutely nothing.

One was actually bragging he could bench press 120 pounds, which isn't an impressive amount. If you're going to brag, at least make yourself seem less pathetic than you actually are. I can lift a can of paint with my tongue; but you don't see me telling the whole darn computer lab.

Then they went on to use the computers to play games and talk loudly about high scores. I felt myself getting stupider just listening to them. Luckily for me I had my headphones with so I just drowned them out with some Queens of the Stone Age. Take that.

What bothers me most is that people like this are tolerated in the computer lab. It is made quite clear students must keep their voices down and their cell phones silent in consideration for other students who are actually trying to work.

Yet, my experience has been these rules are not enforced. There are many students at PUC who rely on the computer lab to do most, if not all, of their work. They should be protected from a couple of goof-offs who just come in to talk, play some online poker and just be a regular pain in the neck. The computer lab staff should be more intolerant of such behavior in the lab. They should give out warnings to people who are bothering others and even kick them out if they do not heed the warnings.

Also, people who come in just to play games and distract themselves are not being very fair to students who actually need to do work and find all the computers on campus to be in use.

Now I would be a hypocrite if I did not regard my own ranting. So, I swear to make an effort to put the needs of others before my own need for distraction. I also swear to never talk above a whisper or discuss anything that drags down the intelligence of the people around me. Why don't you guys join me in my efforts?

"THIS GAME IS RIGGED!"

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 27, Issue 1
Spring 2009

Nathyn Gibson, Editor in Chief
Steve VanderVelde, Managing Editor
LeAnne Munoz, Entertainment Editor
Dave Thompson, Sports Editor

A Smoking Ban is unnecessary

The issue: A new campus-wide ban on smoking

Our opinion: Ban not needed if current rules are enforced

The PUC administration is considering a campus-wide ban of all smoking, similar to the one of several other major university campuses – notably Notre Dame.

A ban is being discussed because of the inconveniences and potential health risks to nonsmokers. Complaints have been made about walking through smoke-filled entryways at nearly every building on campus.

Anyone who's walked through the main entrance to the CLO building on a weekday afternoon can attest to the truth in those complaints.

However, taking away the rights of individuals who choose to smoke is not a solution.

In fact, a solution to this problem already exists in the PUC books.

The PUC smoking policy, last updated in April of 2005, states:

"Smoking is only permitted in the parking lots and in the immediate vicinity of outdoor cigarette ash receptacles located on campus grounds.

Smoking is not permitted in any building, or the doorway of any building, or in the proximity of air intake vents of any building on the Purdue University Calumet campus. This policy also applies to any building operated or owned by Purdue University Calumet at an off-campus location.

Smoking is not permitted in any university vehicle."

If these rules are simply enforced, there is no need to establish a smoking ban. If smoking is done within the established parameters, then smokers and nonsmokers can coexist peacefully.

Nonsmokers will be able to walk into buildings without having to breathe in the toxic second-hand smoke.

Smokers will be able to get their fix, as is their right as an adult American.

Everyone is happy.

Enforcement of the current rule is supposed to be a four-part process:

-Enforcement of the policy will be the responsibility of a private security firm who will patrol campus building doorways to remind smokers that they are in violation of the policy and request their cooperation in adhering to the policy.

-Violators will also receive a copy of the policy printed on a business card.

-Violators will be directed to cigarette ash receptacles which are placed at various locations where smoking is permitted.

-Security Firm will collect data on the success of their efforts to gain voluntary compliance with smoking policy.

If a change is necessary, it is that the current rule must be enforced. Campus security rarely, if ever, warns smokers of their transgressions.

If enforcing the warning system is not effective, we suggest a ticket and fine. Nothing huge, just $5 or $10, but that will be enough without forcing smokers to leave campus.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

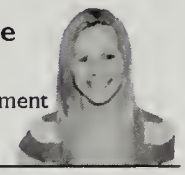
The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writers name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication.

All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

Give them what they want

LeAnne Munoz
Entertainment Editor



A famous proverb once said, "Opportunity only knocks once." This semester, I was given the opportunity to become the Entertainment Editor of The Chronicle, so I decided to follow the proverb and take the job. I don't know where the job will take me, or if it will even be the perfect fit, but the only thing I can do is put myself out there and hope for the best.

I have been attending PUC for almost two years now, and I have heard many comments about how awful The Chronicle can be. Before I began working as an entertainment writer, I would pick up the paper when I was bored, or whenever I wanted to do the crossword puzzle.

I would glance over the articles, sometimes reading one if it caught my attention: the picture was snazzy, the headline was witty. I would find typos and errors and absently wonder why seemingly unimportant issues bothered to make front page news. I would hear people talk about what should or should not be considered newsworthy, what features they would like to see, or even *boasts of, "I would make this so* much better!"

Even once I began working for The Chronicle, I would still find myself resorting to my same old routine, and while I was much more attuned to the plight of The Chronicle staff, I still found myself to be occasionally embarrassed for them when I would find a missed error in an article.

However, I always wanted to do something to help. I wanted to have the ability to reach out to people and say, "Hey, sometimes we suck! Want to help us out?" I wanted to get people's thoughts and opinions, see what they really wanted to read and hear about, and actually help make this a paper everyone would like to read and enjoy, not just material to make fun of.

My plea might fall on deaf ears, but as the Rolling Stones once said, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you might find, you get what you need."

So what I am trying to ask is, what do you want? Is there something you would like to know about, see or change within the paper? There are things I would love to do: writer profiles, student comments, flyer reviews, etc. But I would love to hear from those who read it, students and teachers with real thoughts and opinions. So go ahead, don't be afraid to voice your opinion, because you might find it's just what you need.

A game that commands attention

Filrefront.com

Command and Conquer for X-box 360 and PC has an unrealistic storyline, but is still a great game full of imagination and possibilities

TJ Creech
Staff Writer

"Command & Conquer Red Alert 3" creates a fun, albeit unrealistic storyline.

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became bitter enemies. After the war, the United States and its allies were about to defeat the Soviet Union, when suddenly the Soviets devised a plan to use a time machine to go back in time and kill Albert Einstein.

With Einstein dead, nuclear weapons were never invented, and back in the present, the Soviets find the Allies are about to be defeated. With the Allies and the Soviets fighting one another, the Eastern Empires rise together to form the Empire of the Rising Sun, which threaten to wipe out both forces.

"Red Alert 3" is a real-time strategy game. The main gameplay fundamentals are the same as other real-time strategy games. Players pick their factions: the Allies, Soviets or Empire of the Rising Sun, and they build their buildings and units and try to defeat the other player.

Each faction has its different strengths, weaknesses, unique units and buildings, as well as its own AI commanders who help them throughout the main campaign mode. The camera goes into an overhead view as the player plays, which transitions well for the X-box 360. PC users may find it awkward to play a real-time strategy on a console, but after awhile these feelings will fade. The gameplay and control scheme itself are solid on both the X-box 360 and PC.

The graphics are great and really help the player to get a feel for the futuristic weaponry and units, but the main story mode is told through a series of "real" scenes featuring actors like J.K. Simmons, Jenny McCarthy and Tim Curry. When watching the cut scenes, the "real" scenes feel more like a bad made-for-TV movie.

The different units for each faction are a fun addition to the game, and include technologically enhanced German shepherds, bears and dolphins. Beside the main campaign, there is also a skirmish mode, which allows the player to jump right into the action, pick a faction and face-off against their enemies.

The best part of "Red Alert 3" is the online multiplayer option. While playing campaign online, instead of your usual AI commander, the player can use a character other than the AI.

Skirmish mode is also available to play online against other players.

The overall experience of "Red Alert 3" is amazing, with an exciting story and good graphics. The control scheme may take awhile to get used to on the X-box 360, but players may want to get the PC version if their computer can handle it. "Command & Conquer Red Alert 3" deserves 5 out of 5 stars.

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"Curious Case" is curiously poignant

Mark Farner
Assistant Entertainment Editor

A woman on her deathbed asks her daughter to read from a journal originally belonging to a man who was "born under unusual circumstances." While everyone else was growing old, this man was growing young. This is "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

The film opens on New Orleans, celebrating the last day of World War I. In the midst of the festivities, a woman dies from childbirth complications. The father is horrified to learn his newborn son has been born old, and in his despair, abandons the infant on a staircase. Shortly after, a young couple discovers the baby.

The woman, a church-going southerner, accepts the baby despite his appearance and decides to raise him as her own.

Benjamin (Brad Pitt) faces numerous challenges in his life, the least of which is explaining to people he's not as old as he appears. As a child, he is not strong enough to walk, so he spends his days on the front porch, watching other children play.

He learns how to read from can labels and how to play the piano from a woman in the home. As he becomes strong enough to venture into the world, he befriends a traveling African man who takes Benjamin out for a night on the town, introducing him to alcohol and women.

The highlight of Benjamin's youth is when he meets Daisy (Cate Blanchett), who realizes he is younger than he appears.

When Benjamin has grown young enough, he leaves home, promising to send Daisy a postcard from everywhere he visits. Benjamin befriends a tugboat captain, a grizzled man with a penchant for booze and tattoos. Benjamin's job takes him to the sea and around the world. While separated, Benjamin and Daisy follow different paths, but eventually come together again. It is then that Benjamin tries to gain Daisy's love.

Pitt and Blanchett give excellent performances as Benjamin and Daisy. Pitt's narration and his portrayal of Benjamin give the film an overall calm demeanor. Benjamin is the quiet listener, ever curious about the world, but always maintains a sense of detachment. Conversely, Daisy is the ballet-dancer who adores the world and embraces a lifestyle of excess.

Nothing about this movie is uninteresting. Even with a run time of well over two hours, there is no chance of boredom. It is a genuinely enthralling experience keeping the audience wondering what's next.

This movie is ultimately a love story about the romance between Benjamin and Daisy, but there are more stories squeezed in – a blind clockmaker and his broken heart at the death of his son, Benjamin's experiences on the tugboat, a World War II naval battle and even an affair between Benjamin and a married woman.

Many clocks appear in this movie. Benjamin's comment "nothing lasts" just reinforces the notion that he is at the mercy of time.

Death surrounds Benjamin from the moment his mother dies from his birth. He is raised in a home for the elderly where people he knows are constantly dying and being replaced by those near death. He witnesses death during the war and sees it at home. It is a constant element in his life, but right at the heels of death is always life.

This movie has something for everyone, with elements that equal films such as "Forest Gump;" a mother who loves a child with special needs, unrequited lovers who meet as children and a man who overcomes his d1isadvantages to lead an extraordinary life.

This is a romance movie through and through, but worth a look from fans of other .

Cross this novel off of the list of books to read

LeAnne Munoz
Entertainment Editor

Alex Cross is back, and not exactly for the better.

James Patterson's latest installment of the Alex Cross series, "Double Cross," hit bookstores in late 2008, much to the anticipation of its loyal followers. However, many fans are sure to be disappointed to discover this series may be falling downhill fast.

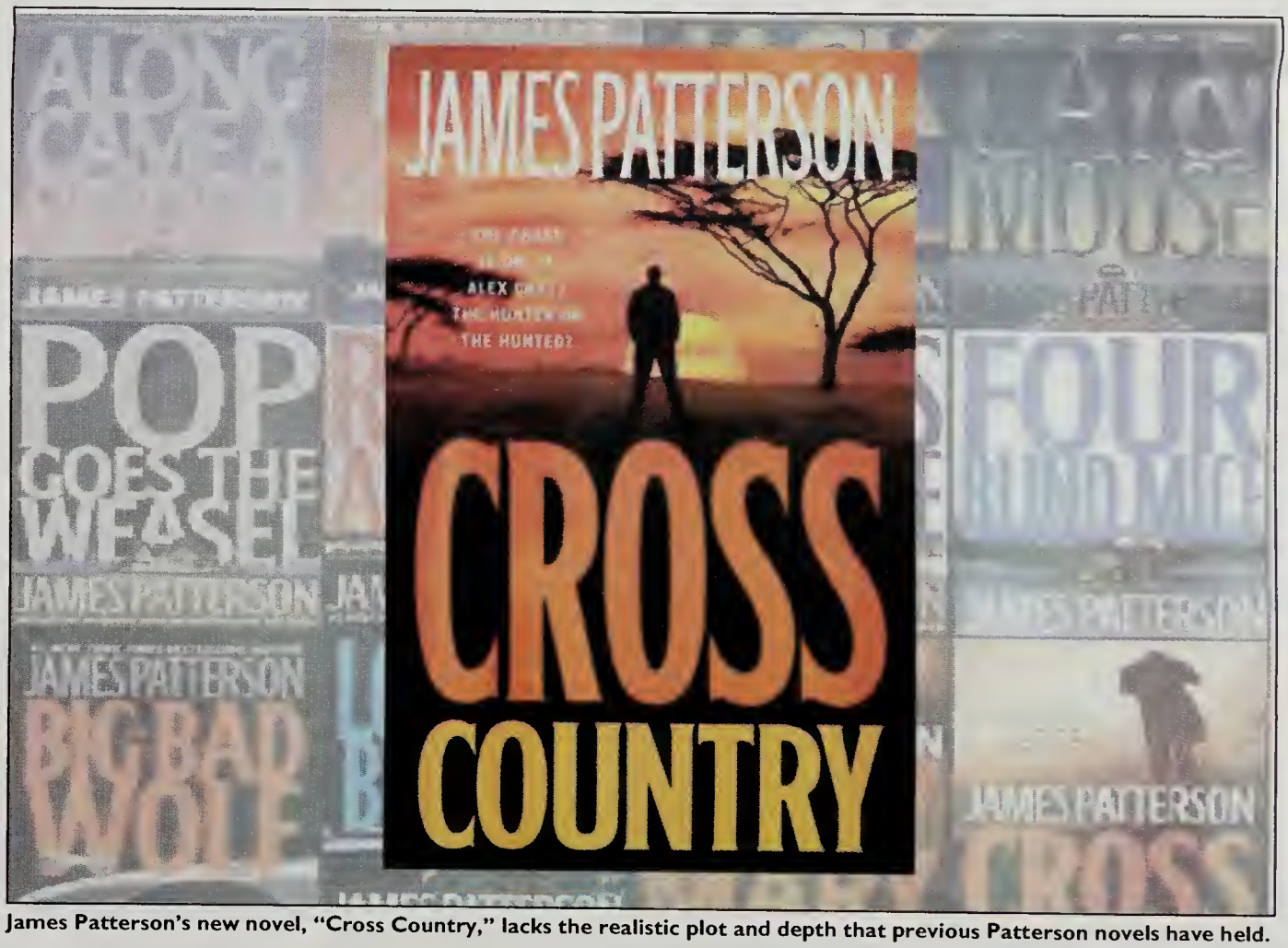
The story begins with a gruesome massacre of a family of five, committed by a gang of vicious young boys who are led by a killer known as "The Tiger."

Enter Detective Alex Cross, who comes to investigate the scene only to discover the woman slaughtered was Ellie Cox, his first love from college.

Shocked by this information, Cross vows to discover who murdered Ellie. After many other massacres occur throughout the Washington D.C. area, Alex Cross learns the killers are from Africa, and decides to take a risky step by putting himself in danger in a world he does not know -- Lagos, Nigeria – all in the hopes of catching a Tiger.

Once in Nigeria, Cross is informed by the local police he is unwelcome and thrown in jail, where he is beaten and interrogated. Later, Cross is released and sets out on a journey to find someone to help him in his plight. On the way, he meets a Nigerian journalist named Adanne Tansi, who not only attempts to help Alex find the monstrous Tiger, but also shows him the horrors that have befallen upon Africa and its people.

"Cross Country" is definitely not the highlight of James Patterson's writing career.



James Patterson's new novel, "Cross Country," lacks the realistic plot and depth that previous Patterson novels have held.

While parts of the novel maintain page-turner appeal, most of the plot seems farfetched and disappointing. The Alex Cross many readers have come to know and love is nowhere to be found in this novel, and is instead replaced by a reckless renegade, hell-bent on solving a case no matter who gets hurt in the process.

The thought process in which the old Alex Cross would go through before jumping on a plane and traveling to a place he knows nothing of all in the name of a hunch was not present in the novel. It leaves readers with a sense of disconnection from the character.

It's easy to see James Patterson desperately wanted to point out the troubles of Africa and Darfur.

While he may have accomplished this by graphically describing the living conditions and situations many people living there may face, he also fed the African stereotype. From blood diamonds, machetes and machine guns, poverty, prostitution and AIDS, Patterson was able to make Africa seem a desolate land with no hope whatsoever.

Many of the situations Alex Cross gets into are over the top, with every other chapter resulting in either a broken nose, a punch to the gut or an escape from a ridiculous situation. The overtones of this novel seemed overbearing and preachy for a suspense-thriller. While the ending brings somewhat of a "twist," it is a "twist" that many fans are sure to be tired of reading.

While James Patterson may have attempted to do something new and different with "Cross Country," he only succeeded in creating a novel that lacks the depth and sophistication of other Alex Cross novels

Winter

Find all the words that relate to winter.

I	E	W	O	L	W	E	O	S	S	I
A	D	N	K	A	S	M	S	N	L	G
I	B	R	K	O	F	R	O	Z	E	N
O	L	R	A	E	A	L	N	C	D	I
L	A	S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L	I
P	N	N	N	O	B	L	G	S	C	K
B	K	E	S	O	P	W	G	E	O	S
R	E	T	A	E	W	S	O	R	A	L
N	T	T	R	L	W	I	B	N	E	E
E	L	I	B	O	M	W	O	N	S	E
B	F	M	K	N	O	O	T	R	T	T

snow
sled
toboggan
sweater
skiing
ice
sleet
mittens
parka
snowmobile
frozen
snowball
snowboard
blanket
fireplace

Police Blotter

12.19.08 – Lawshe – 11:12 a.m.
An unknown subject(s) cashed four fraudulent checks. The financial institution will handle this investigation. Purdue University loss no monies related to this incident.
Open

12.27.08 – UV – 11:45 p.m.
Officer responded to a call reference to a strong odor coming from a room. Upon investigation it was admitted that the subjects inside had been smoking a controlled substance. Subjects involved were escorted off property. The incident will be turned over to the DOS for further action.
Closed

12.30.08 – Potter – 12:07 p.m.
Attempted Burglary - An unknown subject(s) attempted to gain entry into the room by damaging the lock on the door. The incident is under investigation.
Open

01.05.09 – UV – 2:30 p.m.
Water pipe burst causing water damage to resident's property. Repairs have been made
Closed

01.06.09 – Gyte Annex– 4:35 p.m.
Vandalism - It had appeared that an unknown subject had tampered with one of the desks in the Health Clinic during the break.
Closed

CTIS Connection

Information Technology Services at Purdue University Calumet

How do I access my online course?
How do I submit assignments online?
What do I do if I have problems with my Blackboard?

Get answers to these and any other questions you have about your online classes or Blackboard at any one of the following student orientation sessions. No registration is required.

Blackboard tudent Help Sessions:
All sessions are located in Gyte 135

Date	Time
January 7	2:00pm - 4:00pm
January 8	9:00am – 11:00am
January 12	9:00am – 11:00am
January 12	4:00pm – 6:00pm
January 13	4:00pm – 6:00pm
January 14	2:00pm – 3:00pm
January 15	9:00am – 11:00am
January 20	9:00am – 11:00am
January 21	4:00pm – 6:00pm
January 22	2:00pm – 3:00pm

Please make sure to check out http://www.calumet.purdue.edu/ecourses for other important information like:

Getting Started with Blackboard
Setting up Java correctly

Additional Support
E-mail: ecourses@calumet.purdue.edu
Log a ticket on-line: http://www.calumet.purdue.edu/ctis and click on Request service from CTIS
Phone: 219.989.2888 option 2

www.calumet.purdue.edu/ctis

Your feedback on our services is always welcome. Please send your comments to Customer Service Center at csc@calumet.purdue.edu.

Sudoku

3		2			1	9		7
5								
	7			9	2		8	4
			3					
	1	3	9					2
4			1				3	9
			6			7		
6		1	7				2	3
	3				5		9	

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1/3-mile north of Interstate 80/94, three blocks east of Indianapolis Blvd. to campus and south at the traffic light into the south parking lot.

BCS system blatently unfair

Dave Thompson
Sports Editor

Imagine, for a moment, the men's basketball team just won the CCAC conference tournament championship which is coming up in late February.

Before you sit and laugh, yes, I am aware they have two wins right now and it seems highly unlikely they will be able to reach that goal. Although, one never does know what might happen in sports which is why the games are played.

I do understand that principle, coach Voudrie... that's why you are at PUC trying to build a good program... although the definition of good is a matter of opinion depending on the parties involved in a particular conversation. Some measure good strictly by win-loss record (like us in the media and those who are sports fans), others by graduation rates and progressing to a degree (like what Chancellor Cohen seems to use, but that is a subject for another column... maybe).

Now also imagine the NAIA decided to punish PUC by saying in essence, because they screwed up a couple years ago, they can't go play in the national tournament. How would that make you, the assorted people who have been involved with PUC basketball feel? Would you feel just a little bit disgusted inside?

If that scenario would disgust you, then one might understand why fans of the Utah Utes football program would be totally honked off at the BCS system right now. The way that system is set up right now... trust me, if not your own gut... that system stinks worse than a bowl of candied sludge.

In case you the reader is wondering, yes, I was visualizing something totally gross when I wrote the candied sludge comment. Don't ask me what, just trust me on this.

The Utes finished the season with zero losses... that's Z-E-R-O for the entire year mind you, and yet the national champion is Florida who had O-N-E loss all stinking year. In case you care to recap it, (or not) the loss was to Mississippi 31-30 back on Sept. 27, 2008.

Sure, the Utes surged to number two in the AP final college poll, but I think if you ask a Utah Ute fan the honest to god truth... they would rather be ranked number one in the nation.

I hate to admit it... but it is true. Dan Wetzel from Yahoo! Sports sees the value of a playoff, as does our incoming president, Barack Obama. Both of those gentlemen seem to be reasonably intelligent about the issue.

But I do have to confess, Wetzel is just a bit smarter than Obama when it comes to sports. Obama seems to want to take the top eight teams in the current BCS, while Wetzel really wants to make it as fair a tournament as possible in which all of the conferences have at least one team with a shot to win the championship.

Wetzel also wants to pick five at-large teams which could give certain conferences multiple bids or pull in the independent schools like Navy, Army, Notre Dame or Western Kentucky.

I suppose the key question to ask is... should there be criteria for independent schools to get in without seeming like they are receiving favored status by any tournament selection committee if they don't meet the criteria?

Questions and thoughts seem abound in my head as I read about the assorted things going on in the world of sports, so take this column for what it's worth. That being said... I now invite you the reader for your feedback... so see the disclaimer below. I may use your feedback, I may not, but it is always welcome. Thus, my disclaimer as I wrap up.

NATIONAL LAMPOON SPORTS MINUTE OR SO

The Mets are reportedly uninterested in signing Andruw Jones. What a shame - at his weight, he could play left and center field.

WNBA star Candace Parker is expecting her first child this spring, making her the first professional basketball player in history to take part in a planned pregnancy.

And Warren Sapp recently challenged Michael Phelps to a televised swimming duel. Sapp was doing surprisingly well until the harpoon got him.

The Seattle Mariners have acquired Tyler Walker to be their new closer. His job will be to lock up the bullpen after everyone leaves.

Shaquille O'Neal has just re-listed his Miami Beach estate for $25 million, which is $10 million less than its original asking price. A Shaq product hasn't fetched this little interest since Kazaam.

Carmelo Anthony recently hurt his hand in a win over Indiana. The injury is especially disconcerting for Anthony since it's his rolling hand.

Boston College coach Jeff Jagodzinski is expected to be fired after interviewing with the New York Jets. Not because of disloyalty, but because it's now obvious that he lacks good decision-making skills.

And Alex Rodriquez was recently spotted getting close with 60-year-old fashion designer Donna Karan. At the rate hes going, his next girlfriend might be a pile of dust.

Former American Gladiators star Nitro has admitted to using steroids while he was on the show in the early 90's. In related news, scientists have discovered that water is wet and chocolate is delicious.

Major League Baseball suspended Philadelphia's J.C. Romero for 50 games after ruling him "negligent." Using the same charge, the Mets suspended the guy who opens the door to their bullpen.

Scott Pioli, the vice president for player personnel with the Patriots, interviewed with the Kansas City Chiefs about their GM position. Pioli might instead take an easier job, like healing lepers or turning water into wine.

Andy Pettitte has rejected the Yankees' one-year, $10 million offer. Pettitte said he refused to be paid less than the team's bat boy.

And the Green Bay Packers fired six of their coaches. And since the exit was guarded by the team's defense, all six walked out untouched.

For more of the Sports Minute (Or So), visit minuteorso.com

Written by Steve Hofstetter, Keith Alberstadt, Adam Hofstetter, Cody Marley, Ryan Murphy, Elliot Steingart, and Chris Strait

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What might be happening for Homecoming 2009,

Volume 1

Dave Thompson
Sports Editor

After some good old fashioned pounding the journalistic pavement looking for Robert Bunnell last week, I finally found him Friday afternoon at the FRC Building.

After initial conversations at his office, Bunnell informed us via an e-mail statement saying that Chancellor Howard Cohen plans to make a major announcement later on this month about expanding the Peregrine athletic program. Bunnell hopes that PUC would add as many as 10 varsity teams in the span of the next decade.

Bunnell did not divulge any details in the e-mail concerning which sports might be added. Although, if they really want my opinion on such matters... They should have Cohen's announcement occur at homecoming, which is scheduled for Feb. 14, 2009!

Just my two cents, for what it's worth. This may be true, this may not be true. I'm not absolutely sure what people do or don't do when they don't see me, and that's the honest to god truth.

Of course, my web research abilities allow me to suspect things... what's PUC's motto... PLAN FOR SUCCESS? So very true... of course, life in general is one long and winding road. Don't let anyone kid you!

I'm wondering to myself now also... is the Salvation Army in Munster thinking about donating the money I raised in my kettles in my name over the Christmas Holidays and establish some more grant money to help pay for the tuition costs of incoming future athletes?

That would definitely, definitely be a cool touch. I might chip in some of my own money to make it a nice round even number and call it the Dave Thompson / Salvation Army Athletic Memorial Scholarship fund to help pay for the tuition of athletes who want to play college sports at PUC. If I do that, I would definitely encourage any and all PUC alumni I know to help contribute to it.

I wonder if they might consider inviting my old buddy Frank Sprankle (who was my boss here at the Chronicle a number of years ago) to do play-by-play for a broadcast and maybe I might do color on the AM-1230 WJOB airwaves. Heck, invite Jim Dedelow too for that matter, Stew, the whole WJOB staff. Hey, stranger things have happened you know...

And in case you are wondering, yes, that day is Valentine's Day!!! You can do some sort of promotion promoting St. Valentine's Day! Yep, folks... I suspect Cohen is going to make his announcement at homecoming. I have not contacted him yet to confirm that... but if he did... yes, that could be quite cool!!!

That being said, I did read something about Prince, Queen... heck... if you really want to make Homecoming 2009 really special... I've definitely got some ideas...

You could make this a Chicago media event... the place to be!!! Do you want TV coverage of this? I know someone quite well who might help out on that who, yes, I'll admit to having a huge (oh, believe me, she might have always suspected it, but I wonder if she has felt the same way about me. I've always been a gentleman when I talk to her and didn't want to force the issue).

She knows who she is, she is on this campus... and I'll reveal her identity... next week. Hey, I gotta leave the readers a little bit of mystery now about myself now, don't I?

After all, a true gentleman never kisses and tells. Or maybe they do I guess? That's one thing about this whole communication racket in general... although I suppose there is to be something said for Tom Roach's theory of open communication. I might expound some more on that in a future edition of the PUC Rumor Mill.

Where the dirt is dug, the truth is revealed, and hey... we all have some fun in the process! By the way, does anyone know (besides the current Chronicle staff) that I was born on Feb. 11, 1972? I do hope that there will be a dance... oh wait... there might be one. I'll have to double check that. Don't forget the birthday cake you guys... you might need a whopper of one to pull this party off!

What do you think PUC, can you pull off the biggest party it's ever had for homecoming 2009? I would sure love to see you try to do it!

By the way... alumni association... don't forget to invite my mom and my brother Ed. I hope you have their addresses on file, but just in case you don't... let me know and I'll give you the information. And tell Wes Lukoshus to consider writing a success story about the Thompsons.

Whew... I covered a lot of stuff here today. I think I underestimated my own ability to write when I have some sudden flashes of insight and reflections into the communication process. O.K. mind, that's a wrap for now. By the way, Bunnell, you see me around campus, don't forget to remind me at some point to reveal which sports I might actually like to see here. Correction... take two... now wrap already! Sheesh!

PUC Intramural Watch. January 2009

Open Play Dodgeball
Location: Gym in the FRC Building
Dates: Jan. 22, Jan. 26, and Jan. 29
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Call out meeting for Chess
Location: FRC 129
Date: Jan. 27
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Air Hockey Tournament
Location: FRC Building by the racquetball courts
Date: Jan. 27
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Entry Deadline: Jan. 26

Rock Paper Scissors Tournament
Location: FRC Building by the racquetball courts
Date: Jan. 28
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Entry Deadline: Jan. 27

4-on-4 Indoor Soccer
Location: Gym in the FRC Building
Start Date: Feb. 2
Entry Deadline: Jan. 30

Bowling
Location: Plaza Lanes in Highland, Ind
Start Date: Feb. 3
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Entry Deadline: Jan. 30

5-on-5 Basketball Call Out Meeting
Location: FRC 129
Date: Jan. 29
Time: 7 p.m.

Boating Basics Course
Location: FRC 129
Dates: Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14
Time: 10 – 11 a.m.